

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

147. (Currently Amended): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;

wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening.

148. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said elongate member is one of a cable, chain, rope, cord, rod ~~or~~ and pipe provided with flexible end fittings.

149. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said first and ~~or~~ said second support means are posts.

150. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said control means is located substantially wholly within ~~one of~~ said first ~~or second~~ support means, to thereby limit access to said control means.

151. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said first drive means is located substantially wholly within ~~one of~~ said first ~~or second~~ support means, to thereby limit access to said first drive means.

152. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that

said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member.

153. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 152 wherein said first line is a steel ~~or synthetic cable or strap~~.

154. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said elongate member is a 10mm stainless steel wire rope.

155. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in a claim 152 wherein said first line is a 1.6mm stainless steel wire rope.

156. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 further including a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member.

157. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 156 wherein said locking means includes a latch means adapted to engage a termination means attached to said at least one elongate member.

158. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said termination means is one of a thimble assembly, hook assembly, eye assembly, T-bar assembly ~~or~~ and clevises assembly.

159. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said latch means is a pivoting pin.

160. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 157 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member wherein said first line is attached to said termination means.

161. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 157 further including a latch release means.

162. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 161 wherein said latch release means includes:

- a release lever adapted to release said latch means;
- a first and a second spring each fixed at one end;
- a belt passing around a pulley means and connecting said first spring to said second spring; and
- a release line attached to said release lever and said belt.

163. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 161 wherein said latch release means is activated by said first drive means.

164. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 162 wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

165. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 162 wherein said release line is a 1.6mm stainless steel wire rope.

166. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in ~~claim 152~~ claim 162 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line.

167. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 166 wherein said winch drum is fixed to a drive shaft.

168. (Previously added): A gate as claimed claim 166 wherein said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft; and said first drive means further includes:
a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and
an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line.

169. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said drive collar is located on said drive shaft by a pin extending through a slot in said drive shaft.

170. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said engaging means includes cooperating extending dogs and recesses on said drive collar and winch drum.

171. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 168 further including a third spring adapted to hold said drive collar and winch drum out of engagement.

172. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said pulley means further includes a face cam adapted to engage said drive collar, such that any imbalance between said first and second spring acts to hold said face cam stationary, and said drive collar is forced by said face cam to move along said drive shaft to thereby engage or disengage said winch drum.

173. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 172 wherein said face cam includes a ramp adapted to cooperate with protrusions on said drive collar.

174. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said latch means includes a latch or locking pin adapted to be released by a release lever; a member attached via a ratchet means to a first drive means; and a release line joining said release lever to said member.

175. (Withdrawn)

176. (Withdrawn)

177. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 157, further including a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked.

178. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 177 wherein said lock detect means includes a sensor to detect when said latch means and said termination means are both in a locked position.

179. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 178 wherein said sensor is activated by said termination means pivoting a sensing cam, mounted on said latch means, into engagement with said sensor.

180. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 156, wherein once said gate is locked, said first drive means is briefly activated in ~~the~~ an unlock direction, without unlocking said gate, to thereby release tension on said first line.

181. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said at least one elongate member from said first drive means.

182. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 181 further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said at least one elongate member when said first drive means is decoupled.

183. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 152 wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

184. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 183 further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is decoupled.

185. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 184 wherein said braking means includes a resilient means.

186. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 152, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means; said gate further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is decoupled, and a finger assembly adapted to hold said first line against said winch drum.

187. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said second support means further includes a traction means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

188. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 187 wherein said traction means includes an aperture in said second support means through which a first counterweight line may pass, one end of said first counterweight line being attached to said at least one elongate member, and the other end attached to a first counterweight.

189. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 188 wherein said aperture is located a predetermined distance below said at least one elongate member and substantially equal to the distance between said second support means and a point where said first counterweight line is attached to said at least one elongate member.

190. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said at least one elongate member further includes at least one bar running along an end portion of said at least one elongate member, to thereby assist in the retraction of said at least one elongate member along a side of said second support means.

191. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 190 wherein each, ~~or a selection of each,~~ elongate member includes at least one bar running along said end portion of the respective elongate member.

192. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said at least one elongate member is connected to a bar, said bar pivotally attached to said second support means.

193. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said ~~first and/or~~ second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said ~~first and/or~~ second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

194. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 166 further including a tracking means to track said first line along said winch drum including:

a fixed pulley;

a second pulley mounted on an arm, said arm being spring loaded and capable of swinging;

wherein said first line tracks around said fixed pulley and said second pulley prior to being wound on to said winch drum.

195. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 194 wherein said tracking means further includes a first limit stop to indicate a minimum load position.

196. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 195 wherein said spring loaded arm holds said second pulley at said first limit stop when said gate is fully opened.

197. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 194 wherein said tracking means further includes a second limit stop adapted to detect an overload condition.

198. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 197 wherein said second limit stop includes a sensor activated by one of said spring loaded arm and ~~or~~ said second pulley.

199. (Cancelled)

200. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 199 wherein said third line is of the same construction as said first line.

201. (Cancelled)

202. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said first and second ends of said at least one elongate member are held approximately 750mm above the ground when in a locked position.

203. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said at least one elongate member is held approximately 550mm above the ground in the approximate middle of said opening when in a locked position,

204. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said first and ~~or~~ second support means include a security lock system to prevent access to parts within said first ~~or~~ and second support means, said security lock system including:

a top plate adapted to fit within at least one of said first ~~or~~ and said second support means;

at least one locking pin adapted to pass through said top plate and one of and said first ~~or~~ and second support means;

a locking plate adapted to fit over a tang mounted on said top plate and prevent removal of said at least one locking pin; and

a second locking means fitted to said tang to prevent removal of said locking plate.

205. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 204 wherein said at least one locking pin is a high strength bolt, and said second locking means is a padlock.

206. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 147 further including a battery located wholly within one of said first and ~~or~~ second support means to enable operation of said gate.

207. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 206 further including an external power source connected to said battery and capable of recharging said battery.

208. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 207 wherein said external power source is ~~main power or~~ a solar power source.

209. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in of claim 157 wherein said first end and said second end of said at least one elongate member are each attached to respective termination means, and said locking means includes respective latching means in said first and second support means to engage the respective termination means.

210. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 209 wherein said first line ~~and said third line are each~~ is attached to the respective termination means.

211. (Cancelled)

212. (Cancelled)

213. (Cancelled)

214. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said second end of said at least one elongate member is anchored to said second support means by a removable pin.

215. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 214 wherein said removable pin is held in said second support means by a third locking means.

216. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 215 wherein said third locking means is a padlock.

217. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 216 wherein said padlock(s) ~~are~~ is located within said first ~~or second~~ support means.

218. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said at least one elongate member, when in a locked position, is allowed to sag whilst still restricting passage through said opening.

219. (Previously added): A drive mechanism including:
a first and a second spring each fixed at one end;
a belt passing around a pulley means and connecting said first spring to said second spring;
a drive means to rotate said pulley means; and
a line attached from said belt to a device which said drive mechanism is adapted to operate.

220. (Currently amended): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:
a first support means located on one side of the opening;
a second support means located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;
at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first ~~and/or second~~ end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first ~~or second~~ support means; and

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first ~~or second~~ support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first ~~or second~~ support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first ~~or second~~ support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening.

221. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said elongate member is one of a cable, chain, rope, cord, rod ~~or~~ pipe provided with flexible end fittings.

222. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said first ~~and/or~~ said second support means are posts.

223. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said termination means is one of a thimble assembly, hook assembly, eye assembly, T-bar assembly ~~or~~ and clevises assembly.

224. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said control means is located substantially wholly within ~~one of~~ said first ~~or second~~ support means, to thereby limit access to said control means.

225. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to a first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing said at least one elongate member towards said first aperture.

226. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 225 wherein said first line is a steel ~~or synthetic cable or strap~~.

227. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said elongate member is a 10mm stainless steel wire rope.

228. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said first line is a 1.6mm stainless steel wire rope.

229. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 further including a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member.

230. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 229 wherein said locking means includes a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member.

231. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said latch means is a pivoting pin.

232. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 225 wherein said first line is attached to said termination means.

233. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 230 further including a latch release means.

234. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 233, wherein said latch release means includes:

a release lever adapted to release said latch means;

a first and a second spring each fixed at one end;

a belt passing around a pulley means and connecting said first spring to said second spring; and

a release line attached to said release lever and said belt.

235. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 233, wherein said latch release means is activated by said first drive means.

236. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 234, wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

237. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 234 wherein said release line is a 1.6mm stainless steel wire rope.

238. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in ~~claim 225~~ claim 234, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line.

239. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 238 wherein said winch drum is fixed to a drive shaft.

240. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 238 wherein said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft; and first drive means further includes:

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line.

241. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said drive collar is located on said drive shaft by a pin extending through a slot in said drive shaft.

242. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said engaging means includes cooperating extending dogs and recesses on said drive collar and winch drum.

243. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 240 further including a third spring adapted to hold said drive collar and winch drum out of engagement.

244. (Previously amended): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said pulley means further includes a face cam adapted to engage said drive collar, such that any imbalance between said first and second spring acts to hold said face cam stationary, and said drive collar is forced by said face cam to move along said drive shaft to thereby engage or disengage said winch drum.

245. (Previously amended): A gate as claimed in claim 244 wherein said face cam includes a ramp adapted to cooperate with protrusions on said drive collar.

246. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said latch means includes one of a latch ~~or~~ and a locking pin adapted to be released by a release lever; a member attached via a ratchet means to a first drive means; and a release line joining said release lever to said member.

247. (Withdrawn)

248. (Withdrawn)

249. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 229, further including a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked.

250. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 further including a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member, and a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked, wherein said locking means including a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member; said lock detect means including a sensor to detect when said latch means and said termination means are both in a locked position.

251. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 250 wherein said sensor is activated by said termination means pivoting a sensing cam, mounted on said latch means, into engagement with said sensor.

252. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in a claim 229, wherein once said gate is locked, said first drive means is briefly activated in ~~the~~ an unlock direction, without unlocking said gate, to thereby release tension on said first line.

253. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said from said first drive means.

254. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 253 further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said at least one elongate member.

255. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 225 wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

256. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 255 further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is decoupled.

257. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 256 wherein said braking means includes a resilient means.

258. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 256 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means; said gate further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is coupled, and further including a finger assembly adapted to hold said first line against said winch drum.

259. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said second support means further includes a traction means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

260. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 259 wherein said traction means includes a second aperture in said second support means through which a first counterweight line may pass, one end of said first counterweight line being attached to said at least one elongate member, and the other end attached to a first counterweight.

261. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 260 wherein said second aperture is located a predetermined distance below said at least one elongate member and substantially equal to the distance between said second support means and a point where said first counterweight line is attached to said at least one elongate member.

262. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said at least one elongate member further includes at least one bar running along an end portion of said at least one elongate member, to thereby assist in the retraction of said at least one elongate member along a side of said second support means.

263. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 262 wherein each, ~~or a selection of each,~~ elongate member includes at least one bar running along said end portion of the respective elongate member.

264. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said at least one elongate member is connected to a bar, said bar pivotally attached to said second support means.

265. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said ~~first and/or~~ second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate

member towards said ~~first and/or~~ second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

266. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 238 further including a tracking means to track said first line along said winch drum including:

a fixed pulley;

a second pulley mounted on an arm, said arm being spring loaded and capable of swinging;

wherein said first line tracks around said fixed pulley and said second pulley prior to being wound on to said winch drum.

267. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 266 wherein said tracking means further includes a first limit stop to indicate a minimum load position.

268. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 267 wherein said spring loaded arm holds said second pulley at said first limit stop when said gate is fully opened.

269. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 266 wherein said tracking means further includes a second limit stop adapted to detect an overload condition.

270. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 269 wherein said second limit stop includes a sensor activated by one of said spring loaded arm and ~~or~~ said second pulley.

271. (Cancelled)

272. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 271 wherein said third line is of the same construction as said first line.

273. (Cancelled)

274. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said first and second ends of said at least one elongate member are held approximately 750mm above the ground when in a locked position.

275. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said at least one elongate member is held approximately 550mm above the ground in the approximate middle of said opening when in a locked position.

276. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said first and ~~or~~ second support means include a security lock system to prevent access to parts within said first ~~or~~ and second support means, said security lock system including:

a top plate adapted to fit within at least one of said first ~~or~~ and said second support means;

at least one locking pin adapted to pass through said top plate and one of said first ~~or~~ and second support means;

a locking plate adapted to fit over a tang mounted on said top plate and prevent removal of said at least one locking pin; and

a second locking means fitted to said tang to prevent removal of said locking plate.

277. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 276 wherein said at least one locking pin is a high strength bolt, and said second locking means is a padlock.

278. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 220 further including a battery located wholly within one of said first and ~~or~~ second support means to enable operation of said gate.

279. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 278 further including an external power source connected to said battery and capable of recharging said battery.

280. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 279 wherein said external power source is ~~mains power or~~ a solar power source.

281. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said first end and said second end of said at least one elongate member are each attached to respective terminations means, and said locking means includes respective latching means in said first and second support means to engage the respective termination means.

282. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim 281 wherein said first line ~~and said third line are each~~ is attached to the respective termination means,

283. (Cancelled)

284. (Cancelled)

285. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220, wherein said at least one elongate member further includes at least one hollow tube running along an end portion of said at least one elongate member, to thereby assist in the retraction of said at least one elongate member along a side of said second support means.

286. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said second end of said at least one elongate member is anchored to said second support means by a removable pin.

287. (Previously amended): A gate as claimed in claim 286 wherein said removable pin is held in said second support means by a third locking means,

288. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 287 wherein said third locking means is a padlock.

289. (Cancelled)

290. (Previously added): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said at least one elongate member, when in a locked position, is allowed to sag whilst still restricting passage through said opening.

291. (Currently amended): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

and wherein said first drive means includes:

a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum being adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft;

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line;

and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

292. (Currently amended): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first ~~and/or second~~ end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first ~~or second~~ support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first ~~or second~~ support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first ~~or second~~ support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first ~~or second~~ support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

a latch release means activated by said first drive means; and

wherein said release means further includes a return spring adapted to return said release means to a locked position.

293. (Currently amended): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first ~~and/or second~~ end is

joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first ~~or second~~ support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member towards a first aperture in said first ~~or second~~ support means to thereby restrict passage through said opening; wherein said at least one elongate member remains substantially external to said first ~~or second~~ support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first ~~or second~~ support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

a latch release means activated by said first ~~drive~~ drive means;

wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

and wherein said first drive means includes:

a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum being adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft;

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line,

and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line; wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

294. (Previously added) A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:
a first support located on one side of the opening;
a second support located on ~~the other~~ an opposite side of the opening;
at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second supports, said elongate member having a released state in which passage through said opening is substantially unrestricted and a drawn-in state in which passage through said opening is substantially restricted;
a first drive attached to one of said first and second supports and having selective coupled and decoupled states, said first drive being engaged with said elongate member, said elongate member being drawn into its said drawn-in state by said first drive, whereby passage through said opening is substantially restricted; and
a controller, said first drive coupled and decoupled states being selected by said controller; and
wherein said elongate member is moved from its drawn-in state to its said released state in response to said first drive decoupled state being selected, and said elongate member is moved from its said released state to its said drawn-in state under the condition of said first drive coupled state being selected.

Drawn

295. (New): A gate as claimed in claim 152 wherein said first line is a synthetic cable.

296. (New): A gate as claimed in claim 147 wherein said second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

297. (New): A gate as claimed in claim 220 wherein said second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.